

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, **sole** inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SECURING A WELDING ELECTRODE TO A WELDING TORCH**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, U.S.C. §119 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate listed below, and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 U.S.C. 119

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SER. NO.	APPLICATION SER. NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

We hereby appoint Mark W. Croll (Reg. No. 31,098); Donald J. Breh (Reg. No. 30,159); Lisa M. Soltis (Reg. No. 40, 623); John H. Pilarski (Reg. No. 33,028); Paul F. Donovan (Reg. No. 39,962) and Benjamin J. Hauptman (Reg. No. 29,310) of ILLINOIS TOOL WORKS INC., 3600 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025; and Patrick S. Yoder (Reg. No. 37,479), Michael G. Fletcher (Reg. No. 32,777), Ralph A. Graham (Reg. No. 47,607), Tait R. Swanson (Reg. No. 48,226), Robert A. Manware (Reg. No. 48,758); John M. Rariden (Reg. No. 54,388); Brent R. Knight (Reg. No. 54,226), Manish B. Vyas (Reg. No. 54,516) and Barry D. Blount (Reg. No. 35,069) of FLETCHER YODER, 7915 FM 1960 West, Suite 330, Houston, Texas 77070, jointly, and each of them severally, our attorneys, with full power of substitution, delegation and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the patent and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby direct that all correspondence and telephone calls in connection with this application be addressed to Patrick S. Yoder, 7915 FM 1960 West, Suite 330, Houston, Texas 77070, (281) 970-4545.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that all such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: **Gary R. Samler**

Inventor's signature: *Gary R. Samler* Date: 12/5/03

Residence: **215 64th Street, Holmes Beach, Florida 34217, U.S.A.**

Citizenship: **U.S.A.**

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